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## Czech Republic

**Post:** Prague

### Mainly Spring Crops Destroyed by Extreme Rains

**Report Categories:**

Grain and Feed

Oilseeds and Products

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**Report Highlights:**

Extremely wet weather and floods in the Czech Republic will decrease this year's harvest by 10-15%, according to the Agrarian Chamber and the Ministry of Agriculture. Worst hit were spring crops, like malting barley that will have significantly lower yields. Nevertheless, the exportable surplus of grains is expected to be available.

**General Information:**

According to the latest estimates of the Agrarian Chamber, 34,822 hectares of agricultural land were damaged by the recent extreme precipitation and subsequent floods. The South-Moravian, Olomouc, Zlin and Moravian-Silesian regions were affected most. The damaged area accounts for just 3% of the total agricultural land in the Czech Republic. The most damaged crops are grains, rapeseed and vegetables.

Total harvest of grains is estimated 10-15% lower compared to last year. Last year's harvest was very good, above average, reaching over 7.8 million MT. This year, there is still expected to be an exportable surplus between 1.5 – 1.7 million MT.

Ninety percent of winter crops survived. Spring crops suffered from the cold and rainy weather that followed sowing. Some vegetables couldn't be sown because of floods or soil was too wet and didn't allow machinery to enter the fields. The same reason has caused also insufficient fertilizing and spraying of crops, which will lead along with increased humidity to larger fungi infections and other diseases. Yields of spring grains, mainly malting barley, are expected to stay below average.

The total area of rapeseed, the main oilseed crop in the Czech Republic, has decreased over the last couple of months by 4% as 15,000 hectares were damaged due to weather conditions and was plowed under. Expected rapeseed supply in MY 2010/11 in the Czech Republic will reach according to the Union of Oilseeds Growers and Processors 1.1 million metric tons. It is slightly lower compared to previous MY. Nearly one quarter of this supply will be exported.

The Ministry of Agriculture made a preliminary estimate of total farm losses at approximately \$13.6 million (285 million CZK). Final damage and crop estimates data from the Czech Statistical Office are expected next month.

**Author Defined:**



Extra water shown on pasture in the Czech Republic, in June after higher than normal rainfall damaged malting barley. Unlike prior notable flood years, this year Czech will get passed the problem with minimal crop damage though there are farm losses in specific areas. This photo was taken nearby Hranic na Morave, and provided to USDA courtesy of Hortservis, EU.